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House Membership

Representative Tara Rios Ybarra



Biographical Information

Freshman State Representative Dr. Tara Rios Ybarra represents Cameron, Kenedy, Brooks, Jim Hogg, Kleberg and Willacy Counties in the Texas Legislature. On January 13, 2009, Speaker Joe Straus appointed Representative Rios Ybarra to the House Committees on Energy Resources, Agriculture and Livestock and Rules and Resolutions.

Rep. Rios Ybarra is a native of South Texas. She attended high school in her hometown of Corpus Christi. Tara attended the University of Texas in Austin and graduated from Dental School at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio with a Doctorate of Dental Surgery degree. In addition to her educational experience, Dr. Rios Ybarra completed a Forensic Odontology Fellowship at The University of Texas Health Science Center in 2002, which presented her with the opportunity to serve on the 9-11 World Trade Center Odontology Team which included Mass Disaster training. Dentist like Dr. Rios Ybarra, helped identify many of the 9/11 victims. She has practiced dentistry since 1997 and owns her own practice in Cameron County.

Rep. Tara Rios Ybarra has served as a City Council member for the Town of South Padre Island. During her tenure, she was involved with various projects including the initiation of the Litter-Free South Padre Island and the beach re-nourishment plan for the state of Texas.

Energy conservation is an important issue for Texas and the nation and Representative Rios Ybarra has one of the largest windfarms in the world located in her district. Tara convened the 3rd Annual Eco Tourism summit in Kingsville, Texas on October 3, 2008 to promote nature tourism. Tara represents the largest section of coastland in Texas and the Ecotourism summits are part of a commitment to improve the economic vitality of South Texas and preserve the environment for future generations. When it comes to community involvement Representative Tara Rios Ybarra is no stranger. Tara's community efforts include improving indigent health care through free dental care mobile units and sitting on the board of the Family Crisis Center which works to end domestic violence. Dr. Tara Rios Ybarra also serves as a Dental Consultant for the U.S. Department of Home Land Security Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Her district is home to the famous King Ranch, Texas A & M University-Kingsville, Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas State Technical College-Harlingen, Kenedy Ranch Museum in Sarita, Wild in Willacy Festival in Raymondville, Vaquero Fest in Hebbronville, and the Watermelon Roundup and Mexican Village Celebration in Falfurrias. Tara is the mother of two wonderful girls Isabella, 7, and Anastacia, 3. Representative Rios Ybarra and her family live on South Padre Island and has successfully practiced dentistry for 10 years in Brownsville, Texas.

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